



# Tennessee News Release

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

## COOL, WET SEPTEMBER PROVIDES RELIEF TO CROPS AFTER SWELTERING AUGUST

**NASHVILLE, October 12, 2011** – September brought cool, wet, and cloudy weather to offset the dry, hot weather pattern that persisted throughout August. Double-cropped soybeans were particular benefactors of the moisture and yield prospects improved as a result. State Director, Debra Kenerson, stated, “The state’s major row crops held up well over the past month with the aid of unusually mild temperatures and above normal rainfall.” In brief, an October 1 survey of farmers conducted by the Tennessee Field Office of USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service showed the following: **Corn**, 137 bushels per acre, unchanged from a month earlier, but up 20 bushels from last year’s yield of 117 bushels; **Cotton**, 823 pounds per acre, unchanged from a month ago, but down 22 pounds from last year; **Soybeans**, 35 bushels per acre, up 1 bushel from September, and up 4 bushels per acre from 2010; **Burley Tobacco**, 1,700 pounds per acre, up 40 pounds per acre from last year, but down 100 pounds from last month.

## 2011 COTTON PRODUCTION FORECAST UNCHANGED

Tennessee’s cotton production is projected at 840,000 bales, up 23 percent from last year’s production of 681,000 bales, and unchanged from a month earlier. Cotton yields are forecast to average 823 pounds per acre, down 22 pounds per acre from the previous year. Producers expect to harvest 490,000 acres, up 103,000 acres from 2010. A wet, cloudy and cool weather pattern set in and persisted for most of September. The effects were generally negative as defoliation was delayed and rendered less than desirable. Growers ideally wanted to start picking around Labor Day but settled for a start two weeks later. Despite these conditions, the crop around October 1 was rated in good-to-excellent condition. Harvest was lagging two weeks later than normal.

## SOYBEAN YIELD PROSPECTS IMPROVE SLIGHTLY

Soybean production is anticipated to be 43.8 million bushels, virtually unchanged from last year, but down 4 percent from the September 1 forecast. Soybean yields are projected at 35.0 bushels per acre, an increase of 4 bushels per acre from 2010, and up 1 bushel per acre from last month. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.25 million acres, down 160,000 from a year ago. September weather brought cooler temperatures and rainfall, saving the later double-cropped beans from a dismal outcome. Through October 2, 68 percent of the acreage was dropping leaves and 14 percent of the crop had been harvested, both 9 days behind our five-year average. Condition ratings were 4 percent very poor, 10 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 47 percent good and 5 percent excellent, slightly improved from the same reference week last month.

## SECOND HIGHEST CORN PRODUCTION ON RECORD PREDICTED

Tennessee’s corn production is forecast at 100 million bushels, up about a third from a year ago, and, if realized, would be the highest production on record since 1917. Yields are expected to average 137 bushels per acre, an increase of 20 bushels per acre from 2010, and 14 bushels better than the 5-year average. Farmers plan to harvest 730,000 acres for grain, 90,000 more acres than last year. As of the week ending October 2, virtually the entire corn crop was mature with over 80% of it harvested. Rainy weather, cool temperatures and cloudy skies set in during September slowing grain dry-down and delaying harvest of late planted acres. Corn yields are a mixed bag across the state and even within the same county.

(OVER)

## BURLEY TOBACCO PRODUCTION NOT AS ANTICIPATED EARLIER

Burley production is forecasted to reach 23.8 million pounds, down 17 percent from last month's estimate, and down 4 percent from last year. The average yield is forecast at 1,700 pounds per acre, up 40 pounds from last year. Acreage for harvest is estimated at 14,000 acres, an decrease of 1,000 acres from 2010. There was still some tobacco in the fields on October 1. Again, as in September, growers were dealing with a wide range of burley tobacco yield expectations from very poor to excellent. Some burley acreage was lost due to drought. Dark tobacco yields are likely to be about average. Curing conditions have been good. Tennessee's dark fire-cured tobacco yields are estimated at 3,000 pounds per acre. Dark air-cured is forecast to yield 2,600 pounds per acre.

## HAY PRODUCTION TO INCREASE

Hay production, excluding alfalfa, is forecast at 4.18 million tons, 2 percent above last year's crop. Yields are expected to average 2.2 tons per acre, up 0.1 ton from last year. Acreage is estimated at 1.90 million acres, down 50,000 from a year earlier. The start of fall in Tennessee has seen a change in conditions from summer's above average temperatures and sparse precipitation. Cool weather and rainfall during September gave pastures much needed relief. As a result, some farmers were able to get a second cutting that had not been anticipated. As of the week ending October 2, 5% of pastures were rated very poor, 16% in poor condition, 42% in fair condition, 35% in good condition, and 2% in excellent condition. Some cattle producers have been feeding hay to supplement pastures.

## CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, OCTOBER 1, 2011, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Units	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2010	Indicated 2011	2010	Indicated 2011	2010	Indicated 2011
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
<b>TENNESSEE</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	7,500	8,500
Corn for grain	bu.	640	730	117	137	74,880	100,010
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	387	490	845	823	681	840
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	1,950	1,900	2.10	2.20	4,095	4,180
Soybeans	bu.	1,410	1,250	31.0	35.0	43,710	43,750
Tobacco, All	lb.	22.3	22.0	2,051	2,153	45,740	47,360
Dark fire-cured	lb.	6.2	6.9	2,900	3,000	17,980	20,700
Burley	lb.	15.0	14.0	1,660	1,700	24,900	23,800
Dark air-cured	lb.	1.1	1.1	2,600	2,600	2,860	2,860
Winter Wheat	bu.	180	310	53.0	69.0	9,540	21,390
<b>UNITED STATES</b>							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	9,301,600	9,429,900
Corn for grain	bu.	81,446	83,936	152.8	148.1	12,446,865	12,432,910
Cotton <sup>1</sup>	lb.	10,698.7	9,849.5	812	809	18,104.1	16,608.2
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	39,906	38,276	1.95	1.75	77,653	66,980
Soybeans	bu.	76,610	73,676	43.5	41.5	3,329,181	3,059,987
Tobacco, All	lb.	337.50	331.88	2,130	1,922	718,883	637,903
Dark fire-cured	lb.	15.65	16.40	3,091	3,195	48,379	52,400
Burley	lb.	97.6	89.2	1,922	1,944	187,570	173,400
Dark air-cured	lb.	5.5	5.5	2,760	2,840	15,180	15,620
Winter Wheat	bu.	31,741	32,314	46.8	46.2	1,484,861	1,493,677

<sup>1</sup> Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

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